

**Amendment to the Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for descaling hot rolled stock, being moved with respect to the apparatus, by spraying it with high pressure water, comprising at least one row of nozzle heads sweeping across the width of the rolled stock with a plurality of nozzle heads, each nozzle head being motor-driven in rotation about an axis of rotation (A) substantially perpendicular to the surface of the rolled stock and comprising at least two nozzles which are disposed eccentrically with respect to the axis of rotation (A), the nozzles of each nozzle head being arranged as closely as structurally possible to the circumference of the nozzle head, whereby a spray pattern is created on the surface of the rolled stock in a way to touch or overlap the spray pattern of the adjacent nozzle head in the row of nozzle heads, and the nozzles being arranged in the nozzle head radially inclined outwardly at an angle of inclination ( $\alpha$ ) in the range of  $0^\circ \leq \alpha \leq 20^\circ$ , and inclined in circumferential direction (f,f') in the forward direction of the rotation of the nozzle head.
2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the angle ( $\alpha$ ) of radial inclination is in the range of  $\alpha \approx 12^\circ \pm 2^\circ$ .
3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the angle of inclination ( $\beta$ ) of the nozzles in circumferential direction lies in an angular range of  $0^\circ < \beta \leq 30^\circ$ .
4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein adjacent nozzle heads in the row of nozzle heads are driven to rotate in opposite directions with respect to one another.
5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the jet opening angle ( $\epsilon$ ) of the jet exiting from the nozzles is no greater than  $15^\circ$ .

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least six nozzles are arranged evenly distributed around the circumference of each nozzle head.
7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein eight nozzles are arranged evenly distributed around the circumference of each nozzle head.
8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for descaling hot rolled stock, being moved with respect to the apparatus, by spraying it with high pressure water, comprising at least one row of nozzle heads sweeping across the width of the rolled stock with a plurality of nozzle heads, each nozzle head being motor-driven in rotation about an axis of rotation (A) substantially perpendicular to the surface of the rolled stock and comprising at least two nozzles which are disposed eccentrically with respect to the axis of rotation (A), the nozzles of each nozzle head being arranged as closely as structurally possible to the circumference of the nozzle head, whereby a spray pattern is created on the surface of the rolled stock in a way to touch or overlap the spray pattern of the adjacent nozzle head in the row of nozzle heads, and the nozzles being arranged in the nozzle head radially inclined outwardly at an angle of inclination ( $\alpha$ ) in the range of  $0^\circ \leq \alpha \leq 20^\circ$ , and inclined in circumferential direction (f,f) in the forward direction of the rotation of the nozzle head wherein pairs or groups of nozzle heads in the row of nozzle heads are adapted to be switched off or on in correspondence with different widths of rolled stock.
9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the angle of inclination ( $\beta$ ) of the nozzles in the circumferential direction lies in an angular range of  $\beta \approx 15^\circ \pm 2^\circ$ .
10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the jet opening angle ( $\epsilon$ ) of the jet exiting from the nozzles is no greater than  $10^\circ$ .
11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the angle ( $\alpha$ ) of radial inclination is in the range of  $\alpha \approx 12^\circ \pm 2^\circ$ .

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the angle of inclination ( $\beta$ ) of the nozzles in circumferential direction lies in an angular range of  $0^\circ < \beta \leq 30^\circ$ .
13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the angle of inclination ( $\beta$ ) of the nozzles in the circumferential direction lies in an angular range of  $\beta \approx 15^\circ \pm 2^\circ$ .
14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein adjacent nozzle heads in the row of nozzle heads are driven in to rotate in opposite directions with respect to one another.
15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the jet opening angle ( $\epsilon$ ) of the jet exiting from the nozzles is no greater than  $15^\circ$ .
16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the jet opening angle ( $\epsilon$ ) of the jet exiting from the nozzles is no greater than  $10^\circ$ .
17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein at least six nozzles are arranged evenly distributed around the circumference of each nozzle head.
18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein eight nozzles are arranged evenly distributed around the circumference of each nozzle head.